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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/651,209  
Applicant : Mark A. MESSINA  
Filed : August 29, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3677  
Examiner : Robert John Sandy

Docket No. : 2566-122  
Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. : 7634

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith information that the Office may wish to consider in examination of the subject application.

Materials submitted for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.


The relevance of each foreign-language reference for which an English-language translation is not provided, is as follows:

CH 269 995 - The relevance of this reference can be appreciated from the Figures.

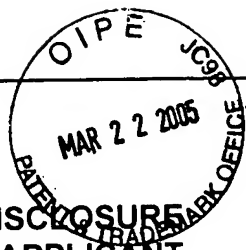
FR 2 278 006 - The relevance of this reference can be appreciated from the Figures.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(c)(1) and (e)(2), no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
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Enclosure: Form 1449  
Foreign References (3)



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*Complete if Known*

Application Number	10/651,209
Filing Date	August 29, 2003
First Named Inventor	Mark A. Messina
Group Art Unit	3677
Examiner Name	Robert John Sandy
Confirmation No.	7634

Sheet

1

of

2

Attorney Docket Number 2599-122

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		5,881,438		CAPANNA, Micael	March 16, 1999
		5,219,099		SPENCE, <i>et al.</i>	June 15, 1993
		5,014,939		KRAUS, Willibald <i>et al.</i>	May 14, 1991

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.



## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.